



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mississippi Natural Science Museum to Host Arbor Day Celebration February 12**

Members of Mississippi's forestry and natural resources community will conduct a statewide Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, February 12 at the Natural Science Museum in Jackson at 10 a.m.

The theme of the 2009 Arbor Day Celebration is "Sustainable Choices for Today, Planting for Tomorrow." This statewide celebration will fit with the "Sustainable Choices" exhibit being promoted at the museum. A special presentation about Arbor Day will be made by students in the Open Doors Gifted Class at Watkins Elementary School. A limited supply of tree seedlings will be available at the Natural Science Museum. A choice of green ash, cherrybark oak, sawtooth oak, willow oak, and loblolly pine will be made available to the public courtesy of Plum Creek Nursery.

Mississippi's Arbor Day is officially designated as the second Friday of February, which this year is February 13. Arbor Day also marks the beginning of Tree Planting Week in Mississippi. During Tree Planting week school children all over Mississippi learn about the benefits of trees and the important role that trees play in their daily lives.

(more)

During February 13-19, 2009, tree planting week activities are sponsored by the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Forestry Association, MS Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Urban Forest Council, MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, USDA Forest Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. To find out more about local Arbor Day and Tree Planting week activities contact your local office of the Soil and Water Conservation District or the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

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